GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2286
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
NATIONAL TRUST FOR WELFARE OF DISABLED PERSONS
BIKRAM KESHARI DEO;RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Trust for the welfare of persons suffering from Autism, Cerebral Palsy, MentalRetardation and multiple disabilities has been set up;

(b) if so, the steps the Government is taking to put it right to promote development and safeguard the interest of these groups;

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines for issue of identity cards to persons of disabilities to the States and Union territories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps being taken for the welfare and care of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities include setting up of Local Level Committees to address guardianship issues, providing financial support to run day care, respite care and residential care centres, training of special teachers and home based care givers, establishment of information centres, development and dissemination of information booklets for parents and families, organizing awareness campaigns and seminars etc.

Government of India has contributed Rs 100 crores for the corpus of the National Trustand the income from this is being utilized to implement the schemes/programmes of the Trust.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that various legitimate concessions/benefits are available to persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in August 2000 has circulated guidelines in this regard to all States/Union territories with a request to adopt the same for the purpose. As per Guidelines, State Government/U.T. Administration, prescribe the appropriate authority and procedure for issue of Identity Cards keeping in view the convenience of persons with disability who should not have to travel for the card. All those who are certified by the appropriate authority to have disability as per the definitions given in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities,Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 will be eligible to obtain the Identity Card.Medical Certificate is a necessary pre-requisite. In case of any dispute, the appellate authority will be the State Commissioner for Disabilities.

(e) Does not arise.